

REMARKS

Please reconsider this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

- Claims 3, 4, 6-18, 20-26, and 31-33 are pending.
- Claims 3, 4, 6-18, 20-26, and 31-33 are rejected.

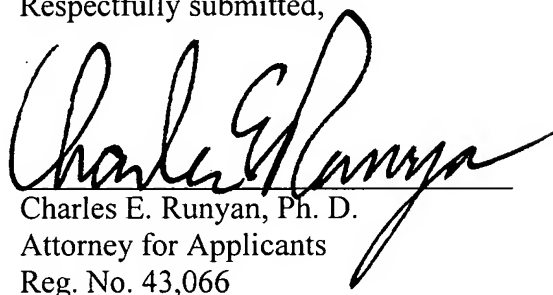
Applicant has added various instances of "having a heating means"; "entrained between a fixing roller containing a heating means and a first fixing roller"; and "facing the first fixing roller through the fixing belt" to the independent claims. Applicant did this to address the 35 USC § 112 rejection of the current claims.

Since all claims are in a condition for allowance, please issue a Notice of Allowability so stating. If I can be of any help, please contact me.

Date: 19 May 2004

Squire, Sanders & Dempsey L.L.P.
One Maritime Plaza
Suite 300
San Francisco, CA 94111
Facsimile (415) 393-9887
Telephone (415) 954-0235
crunyan@ssd.com

Respectfully submitted,


Charles E. Runyan, Ph. D.
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 43,066